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Letter dated 23 August 2011 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the United States Mission to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a report on the work of the Security Council during the presidency of the United States of America in December 2010 (see annex).

The document was prepared under my responsibility, after consultation with the other members of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Rosemary **DiCarlo**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 23 August 2011 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the United States Mission to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of the United States of America (December 2010)

Introduction

During the United States presidency of the Security Council, in December 2010, the Council held 32 meetings and 18 consultations of the whole. The Council also adopted 14 resolutions and 5 presidential statements. The Vice-President of the United States, Joseph Biden, presided over the high-level meeting on Iraq, on 15 December.

Africa

Burundi

On 9 December, the Executive Representative of the Secretary-General for the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi, Charles Petrie, and the Chair of the Burundi configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission and Permanent Representative of Switzerland, Paul Seger, briefed the Council on the situation in Burundi. On 16 December, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1959 (2010), by which it established the United Nations Office in Burundi (BNUB) as the successor mission to BINUB. The resolution provides for a six-month transition period to draw down BINUB staff to the much smaller staffing level for BNUB. Council deliberations centred on Burundi's successful work to consolidate peace, while also highlighting concerns over human rights and corruption.

Central African Republic

On 8 December, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic, Sahle-Work Zewde, and the Chair of the Central African Republic configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission and Permanent Representative of Belgium, Jan Grauls, briefed the Council on the situation in the Central African Republic. On 14 December, the Council unanimously approved a presidential statement (S/PRST/2010/26), by which it renewed the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA) until 31 December 2011. Council members discussed potential threats to peace and security from both internal and foreign armed groups, particularly in the light of the impending withdrawal of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) by 31 December 2010.

Chad, the Central African Republic and the subregion

On 14 December, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of MINURCAT, Youssef Mahmoud, briefed the Council, as requested in its resolution 1923 (2010), on the situation in eastern Chad and the north-eastern Central African Republic, on the progress towards the fulfilment by the Government

of Chad of the tasks and benchmarks set out in that resolution, and on the progress towards the complete withdrawal of all uniformed and civilian MINURCAT components. The Special Representative reported that MINURCAT responsibilities had been transferred to the Détachement intégré de securité (DIS) and that a "basket fund" managed by the United Nations Development Programme had been created to help the Government of Chad sustain DIS. He encouraged the international community to provide assistance to sustain DIS during the post-MINURCAT period. He said the situation for refugees and internally displaced persons was relatively calm, but that humanitarian assistance needs remained immense. He reported that MINURCAT would complete its final withdrawal by 31 December 2010 and had begun the process of liquidation. He also expressed concern about the situation in the north-eastern Central African Republic, and said sustained attention would be required in the light of the need for regional stability.

On 20 December, the President of the Council read out a presidential statement (S/PRST/2010/29) on behalf of the Security Council, by which the Council, inter alia, welcomed the Government of Chad's commitment to ensure the future sustainability of DIS and called on donors to assist the Governments of the Central African Republic and Chad to fulfil their responsibility to protect civilians.

Côte d'Ivoire

On 2 December, the Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Côte d'Ivoire, Choi Young-Jin, on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) and issued a statement to the press welcoming the peaceful and massive participation in the presidential election of 28 November. The Council held a briefing on 7 December and consultations on 7 and 8 December to further discuss UNOCI and the evolving Ivorian electoral crisis. On 8 December, the Council issued a statement to the press in which it, inter alia, called on all stakeholders to respect the outcome of the election in view of the recognition by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) of Alassane Dramane Ouattara as President-elect of Côte d'Ivoire and condemned any effort to undermine either the integrity of the electoral process or the free and fair elections in Côte d'Ivoire. On 16 December, the Council issued a statement to the press warning all stakeholders that they would be held accountable for attacks against civilians and urging all Ivorian stakeholders to exercise maximum restraint, refrain from violence, and work together to restore sustainable peace. On 20 December, by resolution 1962 (2010), the Council, inter alia, extended the mandate of UNOCI until 30 June 2011 and urged all the stakeholders to respect the outcome of the election in view of the recognition by ECOWAS and the African Union of Alassane Dramane Ouattara as President-elect of Côte d'Ivoire. The Council also issued a statement to the press on 20 December, condemning acts of violence and warning all those responsible for attacks against peacekeepers and civilians that they would be held accountable and would be brought to justice.

Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia

On 10 December, Ambassador Ivan Barbalić, Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia, updated the Council on the Committee's activities over the past six months and summarized the findings of the Panel of Experts on Liberia. He highlighted the Panel's recent findings on natural resources and diamonds. Council members expressed support for

the Committee's work, praised the adoption by ECOWAS of its Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials and noted Liberia's continued failure to implement the assets freeze against sanctioned individuals. On 17 December, the Council unanimously renewed the Liberia sanctions regime, as well as the mandate of the Panel of Experts, for one year, by resolution 1961 (2010).

Somalia

On 22 December, the Council, by resolution 1964 (2010), unanimously extended the mandate of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) until 30 September 2011 and requested the African Union to increase the mandated force strength from 8,000 to 12,000 troops. The Council underlined its intention to review progress on meeting the following objectives in its future decisions on AMISOM: (a) fulfilling the remaining transition tasks by the Transitional Federal Government; (b) adoption of a National Security and Stabilization Plan and the effective development of the National Security Force and the Somali Police Force; (c) the continuation of efforts by the Transitional Federal Government to reach out to all groups willing to cooperate and renounce violence; and (d) consolidation of security and stability in Somalia by the Transitional Federal Government on the basis of clear military objectives integrated into a political strategy.

Sudan

On 9 December, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Luis Moreno Ocampo, updated the Council on judicial activities related to Darfur. He reported that the International Criminal Court had issued a second warrant for the arrest of the President of the Sudan, Omar Al-Bashir, on three charges of genocide. On 16 December, the Council held a public meeting on the Sudan's preparations for the referendums on self-determination to be held on 9 January 2011, and unanimously adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2010/28). The Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping, Alain Le Roy, the head of the Secretary-General's Monitoring Panel for the Referendums, Benjamin Mkapa, the Minister for Humanitarian Affairs of the Government of the Sudan, Mutrif Siddiq, and the Secretary-General of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, Pagan Amum.

Asia and Middle East

Afghanistan

On 22 December, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, Staffan de Mistura, briefed the Council during the quarterly debate on the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). His briefing highlighted the Afghan parliamentary elections of September 2010 and the associated United Nations and international community roles and UNAMA operational issues, including the 2011 budget proposal for UNAMA. The President made a statement to the press that underlined support for UNAMA and welcomed the announcement of recent election results.

Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006)

On 10 December, the Council held a public meeting and heard a briefing from Ambassador Tsuneo Nishida, Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006) and Permanent Representative of Japan, on the work of the Committee from 16 September to 7 December 2010. He described the efforts of the Committee to respond to sanctions violations that had been reported to the Committee, as well as its other routine business. Some Council members expressed concern about the reported sanctions violations and noted the continuing failure of the Islamic Republic of Iran to comply with the relevant Council resolutions. Council members commended the efforts of the Committee and welcomed the recent resumption of dialogue between the E3+3 States and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

High-level event on Iraq

On 15 December, the Council, at a high-level meeting chaired by the Vice-President of the United States, Joseph Biden, took significant steps to return Iraq to the legal and international standing it held prior to the 1990 invasion of Kuwait, with the adoption of three resolutions: resolution 1956 (2010), by which it decided to terminate the United Nations-supervised arrangements for the Development Fund for Iraq on 30 June 2011; resolution 1957 (2010), ending restrictions related to weapons of mass destruction and civilian nuclear cooperation placed on Iraq after the first gulf war; and resolution 1958 (2010), ending the residual activities of the oil-for-food programme. Additionally, the Council issued a presidential statement (S/PRST/2010/27) reaffirming its commitment to Iraq and support for the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq, welcoming Iraqi progress and reintegration into the region, and encouraging Iraq and all regional States to deepen and broaden their relationships.

Iraq and Kuwait

The Council held consultations on the situation between Iraq and Kuwait on 17 December. The Secretary-General's High-level Coordinator, Gennady Tarasov, provided a short briefing to the Council on progress made on Kuwaiti missing persons and archives issues. He stressed that the main task of discovering and identifying the Kuwaiti victims was still ahead and that there was a continued lack of progress in finding the Kuwaiti national archives. The Council supported the Secretary-General's recommendation and extended the financing of the High-level Coordinator for an additional six-month period, until June 2011. A statement to the press was issued by the Council following the consultations.

Myanmar

On 6 December, the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Myanmar, Vijay Nambiar, briefed the Council on his visit to Myanmar on 27 and 28 November. The Special Adviser presented a comprehensive assessment of recent developments in Myanmar and reiterated the United Nations call for the release of all political prisoners in the country. He also noted that the United Nations would seek deeper cooperation with the new Government on all three pillars of the United Nations engagement in Myanmar — political, developmental and humanitarian.

Nepal

On 9 December, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, B. Lynn Pascoe, briefed the Council in consultations regarding his visit to Nepal on 3 and 4 December. He told Council members that there had been limited progress on Nepal's peace process in advance of the end of the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) in January 2011. The Under-Secretary-General said that a political impasse over forming a new Government, modalities for reintegrating and rehabilitating the Maoist combatants, and drafting a new constitution remained unresolved. He said that he had stressed to his Nepalese interlocutors that UNMIN would leave when its mandate ended and urged them to make best use of the remaining time to implement the peace agreement fully. The Under-Secretary-General explained that the United Nations would remain engaged in Nepal even after the departure of UNMIN.

The situation on the Korean peninsula

The Council held a private meeting and consultations on Sunday, 19 December, to discuss the situation on the Korean peninsula. The Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs briefed the Council on the situation.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 14 December, the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Robert Serry, briefed the Council on the suspension of direct talks between the Israelis and Palestinians. He reiterated continued United Nations opposition to settlement activity. He said that an indisputable security partner had emerged in the Palestinian security forces and reported that the number of Israeli troops in the West Bank was at its lowest level since 2005. The Special Coordinator said that the Quartet envoys, at their meeting on 10 December, had discussed the need to further enable the State-building efforts of the Palestinian Authority. He welcomed Israel's decision, on 8 December, to allow exports from Gaza, consistent with security conditions, but noted a slight decrease in the number of truckloads entering Gaza over the past month. On Lebanon, he said that political activity continued to be dominated by speculation over the Special Tribunal for Lebanon and reported that the United Nations Special Coordinator, Michael Williams, continued to encourage all parties to resolve any disagreement through dialogue. The Council met in consultations following the briefing. Many members expressed concern over continuing Israeli settlement activity, and over the humanitarian situation in Gaza.

United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

On 20 December, the Council received a briefing from the Department of Peacekeeping Operations on the Secretary-General's latest report on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF). The Council held a meeting with countries contributing troops to UNDOF on 7 December. On 22 December, the Council, by resolution 1965 (2010), extended the UNDOF mandate until 30 June 2011.

Europe

Cyprus

On 8 December, the Council held consultations of the whole to hear a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Cyprus, Lisa Buttenheim, on the situation in Cyprus and the activities of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP). She told the Council that the situation in the buffer zone remained calm, relations between UNFICYP and the opposing forces remained cooperative, and the overall number of violations had declined. She noted the important role played by UNFICYP on the island, especially in the light of the ongoing negotiations, and recommended that the UNFICYP mandate be extended.

On 14 December, the Council, by 14 votes to 1, adopted resolution 1953 (2010), by which it renewed the mandate of UNFICYP and extended it until 15 June 2011.

Latin America

Haiti

The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations briefed the Council on the situation in Haiti on 10 December. He explained that post-election violence had subsided somewhat but that the situation remained volatile. The unrest, he noted, also hampered cholera relief efforts. He said that the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti would continue to provide support to the Government of Haiti in maintaining security. The Council agreed on a statement to the press in which it underlined its concern over the ongoing violence. It also urged political parties, candidates and their supporters to refrain from violence and settle their disputes through established legal procedures. The Council also noted the importance of a credible and legitimate election as a step in Haiti's recovery.

Thematic issues

Women and peace and security

The Council held an open debate on 16 and 17 December to discuss progress on combating sexual violence and ending impunity, one year after the adoption of resolution 1888 (2009). The Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Margot Wallström, briefed the Council on her office's efforts to raise awareness about sexual violence and fight impunity in countries such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Liberia. All Council members made statements and were joined by 30 other members and observers. The Council, by resolution 1960 (2010), which was adopted by the Council and sponsored by 67 countries, called on the Secretary-General to create monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements for sexual violence and to list in his annual report the names of parties to armed conflict responsible for rape or other forms of sexual violence.

International Tribunals for Rwanda and the Former Yugoslavia

On 22 December, by resolution 1966 (2010), the Council established the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, with two branches, one for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and one for the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, which shall commence functioning on 1 July 2012 and 1 July 2013, respectively.